

Student performance mixed on statewide tests at grades 4, 8, and 10

MADISON—The percentage of students in grades four, eight, and 10 who scored proficient and advanced on statewide assessments taken earlier this year shows mixed results.

In mathematics and science, the percentage of proficient and advanced students in grades four and eight was down from the previous two years. Tenth-graders' mathematics and science results for the 2000-01 testing period were up from prior years. Social studies results are best described as unchanged in the eighth and 10th grades and down slightly in fourth grade from the previous two years.

"These fluctuations in the percentage of proficient and advanced students serve as a reminder that test results are best analyzed over time—not from one year to the next, but across a number of years," said State Superintendent John T. Benson upon releasing the results. He cited the decade-long rise in state and national ACT scores as a "perfect example of significant and meaningful improvements in student learning."

Mathematics, science, and social studies results show average increases of 10 percent or more over the 1997-98 results. When viewed across three years of comparable test data, the percentage of proficient and advanced students in language arts dipped in all three grades (4 percent to 7 percent) while reading results improved (6 percent to 9 percent).

"Not only is there an upward trend in four of the five tested areas," explained Benson, "but a much higher percentage of our students are proficient and advanced than are their peers nationally."

Participation in the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) remained steady among most subgroups. The Department of Public Instruction has worked diligently with school

(more)

districts in recent years to ensure that every child has an opportunity to participate in and learn from statewide tests, which comprise one important measure of their knowledge and skills, Benson noted.

The WKCE consists of short-answer and multiple-choice questions in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, students write an essay.

“The real value of these tests comes in identifying individual students’ skills and abilities as well as areas in need of improvement,” said the state superintendent. “In addition, schools are better able to determine their own strengths and weaknesses and, in turn, enhance their curriculum and instruction.”

Among other key 2000-01 findings are:

- The percentage of Wisconsin students that achieved proficiency remained well above students nationally in every subject at every grade.
- Mathematics, science, and writing results show the greatest need for improvement.
- A higher percentage of girls than boys achieved proficiency in reading and language arts at every grade level. A higher percentage of boys than girls were proficient in science in all grades and were proficient in mathematics in all grades but fourth.
- A higher percentage of white students achieved proficiency in every subject at every grade level than students from other racial or ethnic groups. Consistent with recent reports, the achievement gap between African-American students and white students increased in most subjects, particularly in grades four and eight.
- Dramatic differences exist in the percentage of students
 - whose English proficiency is limited and those who are proficient;
 - who have disabilities and those who are nondisabled;
 - whose families are economically disadvantaged and those whose families are not disadvantaged; and
 - who were not in the same school district throughout the school year and those who stayed in the same district the full academic year.

ATTACHMENTS: Several tables that provide additional information are attached. District-by-district scores are available on the Department of Public Instruction website.

http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/spr_kce.html



2000-01 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Total Students Enrolled Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	Nation				State			
	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Fourth Grade								
Reading	55	63	63	63	69	78	77	78
Language Arts*	34	60	60	60	NA	72	71	67
Mathematics	42	54	54	54	52	74	75	65
Science	56	64	64	64	64	87	87	72
Social Studies	53	62	62	62	62	85	86	77
Eighth Grade								
Reading	49	54	54	54	64	74	74	73
Language Arts*	15	53	53	53	NA	71	71	64
Mathematics	21	24	24	24	30	42	42	39
Science	41	44	44	44	56	66	68	62
Social Studies	56	60	60	60	69	82	81	80
10th Grade								
Reading	45	46	46	46	63	68	69	69
Language Arts*	21	43	43	43	NA	62	63	58
Mathematics	17	21	21	21	35	38	39	46
Science	32	33	33	33	43	50	52	55
Social Studies	50	50	50	50	65	75	75	73

* Scores for 1997-98 are for enhanced language which is a combined language arts and writing score. Language arts scores for 1997-98 are not available for Wisconsin.

2000-01 WKCE Performance by Gender

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	Female	Male	Not Identified
Reading	81	74	60
Language Arts	74	62	52
Mathematics	67	64	56
Science	71	74	58
Social Studies	79	77	63
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	3-4 30,966	4-6 33,015	13-18 122
Eighth Grade	Female	Male	Not Identified
Reading	79	68	39
Language Arts	70	58	26
Mathematics	38	40	13
Science	58	66	29
Social Studies	80	79	43
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	3-4 32,389	4 34,389	27-35 135
10th Grade	Female	Male	Not Identified
Reading	74	65	44
Language Arts	65	53	38
Mathematics	43	49	28
Science	52	59	36
Social Studies	76	72	52
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	6 34,979	8 36,552	23-25 303

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the five academic areas of the WKCE.

General Proficiency Categories

Advanced	Distinguished achievement. In-depth understanding of the academic knowledge and skills tested.
Proficient	Competent in the important academic knowledge and skills tested.
Basic	Somewhat competent in the academic knowledge and skills tested.
Minimal Performance	Limited achievement in the academic knowledge and skills tested.

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Students in Each Proficiency Category

	Not Tested				Minimal				Basic				Proficient				Advanced			
	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Fourth Grade																				
Reading	7	6	6	5	7	5	5	6	16	12	12	12	57	62	63	61	12	16	15	17
Language Arts*	7	6	6	5	NA	3	3	5	NA	19	20	22	NA	45	45	42	NA	27	27	25
Mathematics	6	4	4	4	8	2	2	5	34	19	19	26	37	45	43	44	15	30	31	21
Science	6	4	3	4	8	1	1	5	22	8	8	19	51	60	60	49	13	27	27	23
Social Studies	6	4	3	4	10	3	2	5	21	8	8	13	49	47	47	45	13	38	38	32
Eighth Grade																				
Reading	5	4	4	4	17	11	11	12	15	12	12	11	48	57	56	49	16	17	17	24
Language Arts*	5	4	4	4	NA	6	5	8	NA	20	20	24	NA	43	44	42	NA	28	27	22
Mathematics	5	4	4	4	24	16	16	17	41	38	38	40	22	28	28	26	8	14	14	13
Science	5	4	4	4	12	7	6	10	27	23	23	25	40	49	50	42	16	17	18	20
Social Studies	5	4	5	4	8	4	4	5	18	10	11	12	43	43	44	44	26	40	37	36
10th Grade																				
Reading	8	8	7	7	9	8	8	7	20	16	16	17	38	44	45	36	NA	25	24	33
Language Arts*	8	8	7	7	NA	7	7	12	NA	23	22	23	NA	45	46	40	NA	17	17	18
Mathematics	8	8	7	7	30	28	28	24	26	25	26	23	27	28	28	31	8	11	11	15
Science	9	8	8	7	18	7	7	13	30	34	33	24	34	43	45	35	9	7	8	20
Social Studies	9	8	7	7	10	5	5	7	15	11	12	13	38	43	44	39	27	32	31	34

* Scores for 1997-98 are for enhanced language which is a combined language arts and writing score. Language arts scores for 1997-98 are not available for Wisconsin.

WKCE Performance by Racial/Ethnic Group

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White			Not Identified		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	66	68	67	57	56	50	49	50	52	55	52	53	84	84	84	72	70	67
Language Arts	56	58	51	54	55	46	46	46	39	50	46	46	78	77	74	66	62	57
Mathematics	61	62	50	57	58	48	41	43	32	50	49	41	81	81	72	70	66	54
Science	80	82	62	64	67	49	59	62	36	66	63	48	92	93	79	84	85	65
Social Studies	79	80	68	68	69	56	57	60	48	64	61	54	91	92	84	86	83	68
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	3-7 962	3-6 962	3-6 980	21-23 2,242	20-22 2,227	21-22 2,309	7-8 6,966	5-8 7,164	4-7 6,997	17-19 2,511	22-25 2,819	21-24 2,973	2-4 50,993	2-3 51,010	1-3 50,560	5-8 533	7-13 620	8-10 284
Eighth Grade	American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White			Not Identified		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	60	60	57	58	58	55	37	38	35	50	49	47	79	79	79	54	60	52
Language Arts	53	55	43	59	58	46	34	35	26	48	46	35	77	77	71	50	58	39
Mathematics	22	27	21	31	33	29	7	7	6	17	17	15	48	48	45	30	31	18
Science	47	52	43	46	50	39	22	23	17	35	38	28	74	75	70	50	55	45
Social Studies	69	68	66	68	67	66	44	42	37	60	57	52	88	87	86	67	71	59
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	6 946	4-6 962	3-4 936	13 2,022	11-12 2,108	12 2,042	9-10 5,791	11-12 5,742	9-11 6,058	14-15 2,274	17-18 2,353	19 2,617	2 56,403	2 55,481	2 54,851	10-11 713	7 741	12-15 409
10th Grade	American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White			Not Identified		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	49	46	53	52	52	55	27	29	33	40	40	41	74	74	75	45	48	48
Language Arts	41	41	35	43	44	46	22	23	26	34	34	31	68	69	63	41	43	37
Mathematics	15	15	22	29	31	34	6	7	8	15	13	16	43	44	52	19	23	30
Science	31	27	32	33	33	37	10	11	12	21	21	24	56	58	62	32	36	37
Social Studies	54	52	54	59	58	59	32	33	35	47	46	45	81	81	79	54	54	54
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	14-17 821	12-14 870	12-13 915	15-16 1,830	15-16 1,971	13 2,024	26-30 5,028	26-29 4,964	25-27 5,258	24-28 2,214	25-27 2,232	29-30 2,524	5 58,389	5 58,066	4 60,377	17-19 1,304	19-23 1,003	17-18 736

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the five academic areas of the WKCE.

2000-01 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	2,509	46-47	28	24	27	29	34
English Proficient	61,594	2-3	79	69	67	74	79
Students with Disabilities	8,903	12-23	38	25	33	49	52
Nondisabled	55,200	2-3	84	75	71	75	82
Economically Disadvantaged	16,930	8-9	60	48	45	52	59
Not Economically Disadvantaged	47,173	3-4	84	75	73	79	84
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,434	6-8	71	59	56	64	70
In District Full Academic Year	58,669	4-5	78	68	66	73	78
Eighth Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	1,535	42-43	24	16	10	15	34
English Proficient	65,378	3	74	65	40	63	80
Students with Disabilities	9,119	12-15	25	15	7	26	42
Nondisabled	57,794	2	80	71	45	68	85
Economically Disadvantaged	13,812	8-9	48	39	16	35	56
Not Economically Disadvantaged	53,101	2	80	70	46	69	85
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,346	9-10	57	48	24	46	65
In District Full Academic Year	62,567	4	74	65	40	63	81
10th Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	1,388	47-48	20	17	12	13	27
English Proficient	70,446	6-7	70	60	47	56	75
Students with Disabilities	8,196	20	23	14	9	18	33
Nondisabled	63,638	5-6	75	64	51	60	79
Economically Disadvantaged	10,372	17-18	45	36	21	30	50
Not Economically Disadvantaged	61,462	5	73	62	51	59	77
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,169	17-18	53	41	28	37	55
In District Full Academic Year	67,665	6	70	60	48	57	75

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the five academic areas of the WKCE.

2000-01 WKCE National Percentile Ranks

	Fourth Grade	Eighth Grade	10th Grade
Reading	65	68	74
Language Arts	62	62	69
Mathematics	62	69	78
Science	63	67	73
Social Studies	66	67	72

NOTE: The average national percentile rank for all subjects and grades levels is the 50th percentile.